

Appl. No. 10/024,783
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 22 January 2004

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action rejects:

claims 1, 4, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Sturm et al. (USP 6,087,196, hereinafter Sturm);

claim 3, 7, 8, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm.

claim 2, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Burrows (USP 5,980,976);

claims 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Hung et al. (USP 5,608,287);

claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Sreeram (USP 6,140,759);

claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm and Burrows;

claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm, Burrows, and Hung;

claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sturm, Burrows, and Sreeram;

The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claims 1, 2, and 10, upon which claims 3-5, 7-8, and 11-18 depend, specifically claim an electroluminescent device having electrodes comprising metal or metal alloys that are ink-jet printed in molten form.

The Office action relies upon Sturm for teaching ink-jet printing of metal or metal alloys that are in molten form. The applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of Sturm. The Office action of 22 July 2003 determined that the prior art, including Sturm, fails to show or suggest the ink-jet printing of molten metal to form electrodes of an electroluminescent device, and the instant Office action of 22 January 2004 fails to provide a valid basis for altering this determination.

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The instant Office action cites Sturm column 6, lines 1-10 for teaching ink-jet printing of molten metal. However, at these cited lines, Sturm is silent with regard to metal or metal alloy being ink-jet printed in molten form. Contrarily, at column 6, lines 14-17, Sturm specifically recites the use of "a precursor of the final metal, metal particles suspended in a solvent, a supersaturated solution which will yield solid metal ... or an organic with good conductivity", and fails to mention molten metal, as specifically claimed by the applicants.

Because Sturm fails to teach or suggest ink-jet printing of molten metals, as specifically claimed in claims 1, 2, and 10, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the above rejections over Sturm.

The Office action rejects:

- claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Sreeram;
- claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sreeram and Burrows; and
- claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sreeram.

The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 6, upon which claims 19 and 20 depend, specifically recites an electroluminescent device having an ink-jet printed electrode comprising a metal or metal alloy that is ink-jet printed in molten form, with a relief pattern for patterning the ink-jet printed electrode.

The Office action relies upon Sreeram for the teachings of claim 6. The applicants respectfully note, however, that Sreeram does not teach the printing of the electrodes in a molten form. Sreeram specifically teaches that the electrodes are formed using conductive ink, and provides exemplary formulations for creating such ink-jet compatible inks at tables 23 and 24 using silver powder.

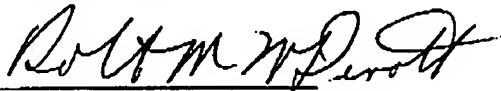
Because Sreeram fails to teach or suggest ink-jet printing of molten metals, as specifically claimed in claim 6, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the above rejections over Sreeram.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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